The balance quantity of 15,400 tonnes is yet to be shipped, awaiting opening of Letters of Credit by the Russian Importing Organisation. A trade delegation led by Chairman, Tobacco Board visited Moscow in October, 1992 and requested the Russian authorities to expedite opening of Letters of Credit.

Improvement in Trade Balance

566. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI : *Will the PRIME MINISTER* be pleased to state :

(a) whether the policy of liberalisation has helped in improving trade balance of the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof in terms of rupee and general currency areas ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) India's aggregate trade deficit during the financail year 1991-92 amounted to Rs. 3,835 crores or US $ 1,555 million, which was the lowest in a decade. However, the trade deficit amounted to Rs. 7,485 crores or US $ 2,622 million during the first six months of the current financial year, i.e., April-September, 1992. This is largely due to increase in imports during this period. The imports registered an increase of 51.4 per cent in Rupees terms and 22.3 per cent in dollar terms as compared to the corresponding period of the previous year. It may be worth mentioning that there was severe import compression during 1991-92 due to critical Balance of Payment situation.

(b) The details of trade deficit in the Rupee and General currency Area (GCA) countries in the period 1991-92 and April-August, 1992 the latest period for which the country break-up are readily available are given below :

(Value: Rs. crores)

	TRADE DEFICIT	
	1991-92	April-August, 1992.
G.C.A. . .	—6,231	—7,030
R.P.A. . .	+2,396	+453

Action Plan to achieve 30 per cent Export Growth

567. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any comprehensive action plan to acheive 30 per cent export growth in dollar terms annually in 34 identified commodities, in the short term;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) by when the action plan is proposed to be implemented ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) A plan to achieve 30 per cent export growth in dollar terms annually, in the medium term, in 34 identified commodities known as 'Extreme Focus Products' has been formulated by the Government.

(b) The plan consists of general and commodity specific action points relating to general macro economic policy, procedural simplifications, infrastructural improvements and institutional arrangements. Several points pertain to changes in tax policy and better terms for export credit. Some points relate to simplification of procedural and removal of procedural irritants, while other points pertain to creation of better infrastructural facilities and institutional framework.

(c) The plan is already being implemented and notifications are being issued as and when decisions are being arrived at.

Exemption of 100 per cent EOU from Central Sales Tax

568. SHRI S. MADHAVAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to exempt the hundred per cent import oriented units from payment of Central Sales Tax; and